



Craney Island Mosquito Control Fact Sheet



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**®
Norfolk District

The goal of the mosquito control program at Craney Island is to protect the health and safety of the citizens of Portsmouth and our workers and operations. Many threatened and endangered species inhabit Craney Island and we strive to take environmentally responsible control measures.

Control Strategies:

- **Habitat Control:**
 - Methods to reduce standing water and control vegetation are carried out on a daily basis to minimize mosquito habitat.
 - The Corps has spent more than \$700,000 in special equipment to facilitate the dewatering process in the dredged material containment cells at Craney Island.
 - The Navy cleans ditches to ensure proper drainage.
- **Larvae Control:**
 - Both the Navy and the Corps apply time-release larvicides to areas of standing water. Some of these larvicide formulations remain active up to 150 days.
 - Ponds and ditches on both facilities are stocked with mosquito eating fish.
- **Adult Control:**
 - The U.S. Air Force Reserve has sprayed the federal lands and surrounding neighborhoods more than 20 times since 1996, including twice last year (2 Sept. and 6 Oct.). Four flights are proposed for 2005.
 - Last year the Corps of Engineers hired a contractor who performed four additional aerial sprayings on the Craney Island Dredged Material Area (11 and 19 Aug., 25 Sept., 6 Oct).
- **Surveillance:**
 - A program of mosquito surveillance including a rain gauge on Corps land; traps for adult counts; regular larvae surveillance checks; and implementation of a GIS mapping system to track monitoring data. This data will help us plan when and where to apply chemicals.
- **Revision to the Corps' Environmental Assessment document:**
 - This gives us greater latitude on control measures. The revision was completed and coordinated with environmental agencies in February 2005 to allow greater use of Altosid (Methoprene), a recommended larvicide; Bacillus sphaericus, a larvicide; and addition of herbicides for mosquito habitat control.
- **Shared Contracts:**
 - Increased coordination and shared contracts between Corps of Engineers and U.S. Navy for source reduction (decreasing mosquito habitat, vegetation control); surveillance measures (adult traps); aerial spraying; and larvicide applications.
- **Expert Oversight:**
 - The Corps has a mosquito consultant under contract and a staff biologist to help plan control strategies.
 - The Navy has an entomologist and supporting staff available full time.

For More Information Contact:

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<http://www.nao.usace.army.mil/mosquitoes/>